

## 127 WEST MAIN STREET

This house is a 2½-story, 2-section, 30' wide building that sits on a low fieldstone foundation looking north to West Main Street on the west side of that street's intersection with Clay Alley in Westminster. The eastern half of the principal facade is composed of a 3-sided, two-story bay window with a broad pedimented dormer in the attic. The house is an interesting example of Westminster's building pattern, as it shows "the end of the trail" of the 150 year old development of the local dominant form of domestic architecture - how that form survived the vicissitudes of eclecticism of the later 19th century, and how it went, rather weakly, into this century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0704474704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

127 West Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

— DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
— STRUCTURE  
— SITE  
— OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

— PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
— BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

— IN PROCESS  
— BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
— UNOCCUPIED  
— WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
— YES: UNRESTRICTED  
— NO

**PRESENT USE**

— AGRICULTURE  
— COMMERCIAL  
— EDUCATIONAL  
— ENTERTAINMENT  
— GOVERNMENT  
— INDUSTRIAL  
— MILITARY  
— MUSEUM  
— PARK  
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
— RELIGIOUS  
— SCIENTIFIC  
— TRANSPORTATION  
— OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Arthur E. Babylon

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

127 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 355

Folio #: 19

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# **7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Number 127 West Main Street is a 2½-story, 2-section, 30' wide house that sits on a low fieldstone foundation looking north to West Main Street, (St. Route 32) on the west side of that street's intersection with Clay Alley in Westminster. The eastern half of the principal facade is composed of a 3-sided, two-story, bay window with a broad pedimental dormer in the attic. Each of the six windows on the bay has 1/1 panes; the pair of square windows within the pediment have been boarded over. Windows are all simply enframed by thin boards painted white. To the west, on the ground floor, is a modern glass and aluminum storm door, also simply enframed below a small rectangular transom. A 1/1 window is to the west of that, and then another one is in the center of the second story. A one-story, hipped-roof porch shades the ground floor, and follows the contours of the house, including the bay window. It is supported by elongated wooden Ionic columns; a bowed railing finishes the wooden porch in front of the bay window. The roofs of the porch gable, and main section of the house are covered in grey asbestos tiles.

The east and west walls have a single 1/1 window on both floors towards the south. The south facade, under its half-story gable (which is pierced by a pair of 2/2 windows) was originally shaded by a two-tier porch. The porch is still complete on the second story, but has largely been filled in below. A glass and aluminum storm door is in the open eastern 10' of both floors. The other 20' of the second story has two 1/1 storm windows in it, behind the turned columns that support the porch, and the row of spindles at the top and bannisters at the base which add a certain needed ornamentation. The ground floor has a modern 6/6 window to the west of the infill, and a wood and glass door, leading to the cellar, in the east of it. A storm door, below a narrow transom, is approached by a flight of six steps, and set back a few feet from the remains of the porch, and leads to the ground story apartment. The entire building, except for the railing of the various porches, and the trim about the windows and doors (which is painted white) is covered in pale yellow aluminum siding.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although several local residents have expressed surprise at including this building in a survey of the town ("You're doing that!"), the building has a definite importance locally and regionally, to show "the end of the trail": the final stage in the 150 year old development of a local and regional form. This form evolved in (or was brought to) Westminster about the time of the Revolution, and consisted of a squarish gable-roofed section on Main Street (with the roof's ridge running parallel with the street) and a deeper, perpendicular, gable-roofed section off of it. Some of the earliest examples extant include nos. 288 and, 224 East Main Street. Later, as the 19th century progressed, its basic form took on certain fashionable decorative features: sometimes a tower as at 142 East Main, sometimes pedimental dormers as at 130 East Main. The form was under heavy attack at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries as various eclectic and idiosyncratic trends grew stronger here as elsewhere. But at 127 West Main Street is one final use of this old form. The history of the lot can be traced back to the early 19th century (Jacob Martin sold a quarter acre to Ruth Troxell on April 12, 1844 for \$600, 3/248; her executor, Thomas Stevenson, sold the place to Josiah Martin for \$800, 30 years later, 50/525; and his heir sold a 30' x 198' strip to George R. Grumbine for \$950 on December 8, 1900, 91/554). We would probably assume that Grumbine bought half the lot with the purposes of erecting a house, this house. The lot stayed in the Grumbine family through various straw deeds, (152/351, 152/352) until Nettie Grumbine, widow of the man who built the house, sold the land to its present owner on August 24, 1962 (355/19).

Beyond being valuable merely fin de siecle piece, the Grumbine house is a fine and integral part of the West End streetscape, especially when viewed from the north. Viewed from the north, it and its near-mirror image, no. 125, work as well to define an intersection: their pedimented towers rise point where Clay Alley runs into West Main. (125 West Main has many of the same attributes we credited no. 127 with having, but it is a bit less sophisticated, lacking the rear balconies and the contoured front porch.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being the easterly 30' of lot no. 11 of B. S. Pigman's Addition to Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

April

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



CARR 447

125-127 W. MAIN ST  
WESTMINSTER

S. FACADE

C. WEEKS 3/77

000%





~~127~~ 60%

E-9

CARR 447

127 W. MAW STREET  
WESTMINSTER

N. FACADE

3/77 (WEEK)